Remarks

Claims 1-7, 9-11 and 13 are pending. Claims 8 and 12 have been canceled. Claim 1 is the only independent claim. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application is respectfully requested.

The specification has been amended to overcome the objection to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) (point 1 of the Detailed Action), to overcome the objection to the Abstract (point 3 of the Detailed Action), and to overcome the objection to the original page 3, line 25 (point 4 of the Detailed Action).

Claim 12 has been canceled, to overcome the objection to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) (point 2 of the Detailed Action).

Claims 2 and 3 have been amended to overcome the informal objections at point 5 of the Detailed Action. The independent claim 1 now includes the features from the original claim 8, now canceled, but also amended to overcome the informal objection at point 5 of the Detailed Action.

Claims 1 and 11 have been amended to overcome the rejection under 35, U.S.C 112, second paragraph (point 6 of the Detailed Action).

Applicant further respectfully submits that the invention defined by the amended claims is patentable over the prior art of record.

The original claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Piaget et al. (5,626,539). It is noted however that the cited "actuation means (84, 90)" of Piaget et al. are not driven by the winding motion of the belt and they do not vary the inclination of the support frame (30), as required by applicant's independent claim 1. Instead and to the contrary of applicant's claimed limitations, **it is the downward movement of the treadmill when stepped on which causes the gear 90 of the drive mechanism 84 to engage within the sector gear 88 and rotate, which in turn will cause rotation of the roller shaft and driving movement of the tread itself** (see column 4, lines 56-60 of Piaget et al.)

Moreover, applicant's independent claim 1 has been amended to include the structure of the motor means that are actuated by the winding motion of the belt, and the hydraulic cylinder means connected to the supporting frame and controlled by the motor

means for varying the inclination of the supporting frame. Applicant submits that clearly Piaget et al. does not disclose nor fairly suggest to a person having ordinary skill in the art this claimed structural configuration. Similar considerations apply to all of the other prior art references of record.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully solicits allowance of pending claims 1-7, 9-11 and 13.

Respectfully submitted,

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Encl.: -Abstract of the Disclosure, on a separate sheet.